(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1067/15/09]

Report and Accounts (2008-09) of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) Fortieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS), New Delhi, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No.L.T. 1148/15/09]

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REPORT OF DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (2009-10)

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the First Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on "Demands for Grants (2009-10)" of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

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REPORT OF DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2009-10)

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the First Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources on "Demands for Grants (2009-10)" of the Ministry of Water Resources.

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MOTION FOR ELECTION TO SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I move the following Motion:

"That in pursuance of clause (j) of Section 5, read with sub-sections (1), (2) and (4) of Section 6 of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum Act, 1980 (No.52 of 1980), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a member of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, in the vacancy caused due to the retirement of Shri Thennala G. Balakrishna Pillai from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the 21st April, 2009."

The question was put and the motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now; Short Duration discussion, Mr. Raja to ... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I would like this to be ... ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is a question of one or two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; I have given you time. ... *(Interruptions)*... I have said ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला (राजस्थान) : सर, आपने कहा था कि क्वेश्चन आवर के बाद ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने क्या कहा था? ...(व्यवधान) What do you want me to do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, you have to advise the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Chair has to advise the Minister for ruling of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no; this has already been done.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Where?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You see, now the Government is to take a note of this. ...*(Interruptions)*... They have not made an announcement in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... How do I have to take a cognizance of it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, that is why, going by the rules, I am raising the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; if you just want to take the House lightly and the Ministers do not care and have respect for the House, then I can't help it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, आप क्यों बोल रहे हैं? ..(व्यवधान)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: They are taking it in a casual manner. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, no announcement has been made as far as the policy is concerned. This policy was already ... ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा. (श्रीमती) नजमा ए. हेपतुल्ला : आपसे जवाब नहीं चाहिए। ..(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He doesn't want an answer from you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry; what can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I do not know why my friend is getting agitated. I am just...*(Interruptions)*...

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR

Postponement of the Calling Attention on the progress of relief to the victims of 1984 riots

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Calling Attention by Sardar Tarlochan Singh will be taken up on Monday.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I am on a simple issue. When the House is in session, Ministers are supposed to make policy statements in the House. The Minister did it outside. Secondly, an outside statement has no sanctity as far as the Parliament is concerned. That being the case, will the Minister assure us that what he said outside is the policy of the Government? The issue has been agitating the minds of the Members of Parliament also and it was raised in this House earlier. *(Interruptions)* I do not know why my other friends are getting agitated. I would only request the Chair to direct the Minister to make a clarification.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am willing to respond if the matter will end with that. If they expect a debate, I don't think...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I would fully agree with that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am deeply grateful to the hon. Member. I know that he hails from Andhra Pradesh and, therefore, his concern can only be greater than the concerns of some other Members. When he raised the matter yesterday, Government was not in a position to respond, because at that time, consultations were underway. When the consultations had been completed and Government was able to come to a decision, it was very late in the night, and, obviously, the matter did not brook any delay and we could not have, possibly, waited until the next morning to make the statement. Besides, what I said yesterday night at about 11.30 is a re-statement of an earlier decision of the Government, which is very well known to the House. It was a re-statement. And, of course, I said other things like, cases will be withdrawn. We have requested the Chief Minister. I appealed to Shri Chandrasekhar Rao to withdraw his fast. Those were necessary to be said yesterday in order to bring the agitation to an end and restore normalcy. I am happy to inform the House that, by and large, normalcy has been restored in Hyderabad and in Andhra Pradesh. Shri Chandrasekhar Rao spoke to me in the morning. He has welcomed the statement. He has thanked all sections of the House who have extended support to him. And I have invited him to Delhi to come and discuss the next steps. With this, I humbly request the hon. Member to let the matter rest.